

13

providers, cable MSOs and/or long distance telephone firms. They also may include cable TV companies, satellite TV service, and LAN/WAN communication network providers. The external I/O port means 62 may be connected to a Universal Series Bus (USB) and/or an IEEE 1394 (Firewire®) type I/O bus.

FIG. 8 presents a typical flow diagram of computer programs executing in the system of the embodiments disclosed herein. After a power-on action 60, the system may enter a standby power on mode 62. A power management program 66 may then be executed followed by a self diagnostic routine 68 that tests the major hardware and firmware elements of the system. If the test fails, a failure report 66 may be generated and either displayed or stored. If the test passes, the operating system (OS) 70 may be loaded and executed. With the OS loaded successfully, the system waits for incoming data and/or voice calls 72. The system may automatically enter a default system mode, or the user can select one or more computer or communication modes 76. The user has the option of selecting several operating modes, which may include a conventional computing mode 78, a wireless data communications mode 80, and a wireless voice communications mode 82. A conventional computing mode includes typical PC computing or PDA computing. While in any of the above modes, base unit to external communications operations 79 may be controlled, which includes data/voice wire and wireless options. Control code 81 may control the bidirectional handset or earset to base unit communications operations. These operations may execute roughly simultaneously or on a time shared bases, as indicated by connection 83. Under program control, either the wireless handset or the earset may communicate data first between the base unit, then the base unit may relay the data to/from the external communications network. The above communications may involve two way or bidirectional communications, including many types of data (including text, voice, graphics, video and/or images).

Many types of computer application programs may be executed by the computer system. For example, one or more telephony programs 84, office/personal productivity programs 86, electronic mail or voice mail 88, and Internet/Web browsing programs 90 may be used. Other PDA, PC or workstation programs may also be executed. One or more programs (algorithms or routines) 96 may be used to control this multiple program or system modes; this may include program coordination, scheduling and execution. Programs to control the mobile communications relay functions 98 may be embodied. Users may have the option to exit the application programs 100. Typically, after the applications have been closed, the user may exit the operating system 102. After the system exits the OS, the system may still may be in a standby power mode 104, in which the system can answer and process incoming calls, plus service other requests for other processing tasks. Users may have the option of turning off (or removing) all power to the unit 106.

It should be further understood that, although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described herein. Changes and modifications can be made in the described arrangements without departing from the scope of the appended claims. Other embodiments, additions, and improvements will be obvious to those with an ordinary skill in the relevant art.

I claim:

1. A portable computer unit having two leaf structures that can be opened and closed like a book, portable computer unit comprising:

- a) a flat panel display assembly having a flat panel display device, control electronics and connection means which forms a first leaf structure;

14

- b) a microprocessor system electrically interfaced to said flat panel display assembly, having control circuitry, internal memory means and data storage means;
- c) a battery power means electrically connected to said flat panel display microprocessor system and flat panel display device; and

- d) a second leaf structure which is hinge connected to said flat panel display assembly at an edge of each leaf structure, wherein said second leaf structure has a recessed cutout having the approximate size a handset for optional placement of a handset or other objects, and deep enough for said object or multiple objects to fit, such that said portable computer unit can be closed.

2. A portable computer unit, as recited in claim 1, in which said second leaf structure, includes a keyboard and the said hinge connections means is to be easily disconnected from said first and second leaf structure without using tools.

3. A portable computer-display unit having a notebook-like arrangement having two leaf structures, in which a user has an option to open and close like at book, the portable computer display unit comprising:

- a) a flat panel display assembly defining a first leaf structure, comprised of a display device, display screen, drive electronics, battery, and control electronics;

- b) microcomputer system electrically interfaced to said flat panel display device, said microcomputer system having a microprocessor unit, data storage means, input/output means and control circuitry;

- c) a roughly transparent cover panel of a second leaf structure, which is essentially flat in two dimensions and hinged to said first leaf structure at one edge of each leaf structure, wherein said user can open and close the two leaf structures like a notebook; and

- d) said transparent cover panel being sufficiently transparent and being a least the size of said display screen so that said display screen information is viewable when said leaf structures.

4. A portable computer-display unit, as recited in claim 3, further comprising photo electric sensors fixed onto the upper surface of said flat panel display assembly to convert light to electrical energy to charge said battery.

5. A portable computer-display unit, as recited in claim 3, in which said transparent cover is adapted to be removed from said flat panel display assembly.

6. A notebook computer having a clam shell like structure having two leaf halves that a user can open and close like a book, the notebook computer comprising:

- a) a display assembly having a flat panel device, display screen and control electronics;

- b) a cover assembly pivotally attached at one edge of said display assembly via a hinge means, wherein the user have options to open and close said display assembly and cover assembly like a book;

- c) a relatively thin sheet-like member interposed between said display assembly and said cover assembly is pivotally attached to said hinges means, wherein said thin sheet member serves in-part as a physical protection function; and

- d) said thin sheet-like member is roughly the same length and width as said cover assembly or display assembly, wherein said sheet-like member can be pivotally moved back and forth like a page in a book.

7. A notebook computer as recited in claim 6, in which said relatively thin sheet-like member is roughly transparent.